

Indiana State Representative Jim Bottorff

Dear Friends:

The 2004 short session of the Indiana General Assembly convened on Organization Day in November to discuss a number of important items, including our continuing efforts to provide Hoosier taxpayers with real property tax relief.



**Contact
Rep. Jim
Bottorff
District 71**

Residence
2413 Hwy 62
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Office
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9842

Online
H71@in.gov
www.in.gov/H71

and suggestions in the section provided.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about state government.

Helping Hoosier Families cope with the court-ordered tax restructuring

Property Tax Relief

The Indiana General Assembly has passed a series of reforms that help build on the tax restructuring that took place in 2002. The reforms contained in the package approved by the legislature will provide nearly \$500 million in property tax cuts for homes, businesses and farms.

The deadline to file for the homestead credit and other credits and deductions was extended, which will help 95,000 Hoosier homeowners receive state property tax relief. Counties will be able to offer installment payment plans to help taxpayers with larger bills, and penalties for late payments can be waived. Property taxpayers will have up to 45 days to appeal a bill.

While these provisions will help ease the burden on property taxpayers, I am disappointed we were unable to include additional protections that were approved by the House.

The House reforms would have given homeowners a larger share of property tax relief and provided additional relief for senior citizens.

While these provisions were killed in the Indiana Senate, House Democrats will pursue these reforms when the legislature returns in January. The bills outlining our proposals have been filed and are ready for consideration.

Anyone interested in testifying before the committee or attending any of the hearings when we reconvene can call my office at 800-382-9842 for information about the times and locations of those meetings.

The General Assembly's actions to date have demonstrated a bipartisan understanding that more must be done to help taxpayers, particularly those who own homes and farms. We must continue to protect their interests throughout the 2004 session.



Property Tax Relief Highlights

***Extension of filing
deadline for home-
stead credit and other
deductions**

***Counties could offer
installment payment
plans to taxpayers**

***Counties may waive
penalties for late pay-
ments**

***Allow 45 days for tax-
payers to appeal bills**

***Safeguards to limit
local government
property tax increases**

Please complete the survey and return it to me or go to www.in.gov/H71 to complete the survey on-line. A second person of your household may respond in the second set of answers.

2004 Legislative Survey

1. Should Indiana's property tax system be abolished, with corresponding increases in other taxes to ensure that critical local services be continued?

1. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no

2. Should the state allow cameras at intersections to issue violations to reckless drivers?

2. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no

3. In order to reduce jail overcrowding and corrections costs, should judges be given greater options to use community corrections and in-home detention programs rather than mandatory sentences?

3. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no

4. Should smoking be prohibited in all public places in Indiana?

4. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no

5. Do you support the expansion of gaming in the state of Indiana?

5. ☐yes ☐no
☐yes ☐no

6. What is the most serious problem facing our community today? Please answer in the space afforded below.

Comments:
